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Journal, but in the last edition of Dana's Mineralogy the locality was given, but without credit.

April 10th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From Capt. Geo. B. McClellan U. S. A., dated April 6th, 1855, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Correspondent.

From the Geological Society of London, dated Nov. 16th, 1854, acknowledging the receipt of Nos. of the Proceedings and Journal.

From Ed. de Vernueil, dated Paris, March 20, 1855, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Correspondent, and making inquiry relative to the publications of the Academy.

Mr. Isaac Lea read a letter from Dr. Deane, of Greenfield, Massachusetts, accompanying a photographic impression of some footprints in sandstone, specimens of which he desires to dispose of.

Mr. Cassin read a letter from Capt. F. Bernsée, of the Ship Courier, wrecked on the S. W. point of East Falkland Island, in April, 1854, of which the following is an extract.

“The next morning when we found ourselves homeless and houseless, as well as reduced to poverty, we commenced looking round for something to eat. In this we had no trouble, for game and birds (of the kind I send you) were more abundant than I had ever seen them before; and as few human beings had ever trod that part of the Island, they were fearless and would come up to look at us; and we could get any quantity by knocking them down with sticks and stones. The wolves, of which there were but few, would also come to look at us; and would take a duck from one of our hands, while with the other we would knock them on the head with a stick. I seldom saw more than one of them at a time. Some wolves were caught alive by swinging a small line with a stone tied to the end of it round and round the head with force, and when the wolf would come for a duck or a goose which another man would shake at him, we would let the stone with the line swing round his legs, and tangle him up so that we could secure him. At one time we had six, all caught in that manner, and tied in different places around our tent, which we had fixed as a shelter from wind, snow and rain, for winter was coming on. During the time we had these wolves prisoners, some fifteen or twenty would visit them at night, and make a strange noise that would sometimes sound like the bark of a dog, and then change to a snarl and a howl. They would get quite tame in two or three days, but not sufficiently so to let them go loose; they, however, would not bite when we put our fingers in their mouths, or threw them across our shoulders and carried them like a dog. They appeared to be very playful, as those that were not caught would come up in the daytime and have great times with our dog; but his courage generally failed him and he would run off and come up to the men. They burrow in the sand hills: and I often found two or three openings, which led through long channels underground to their kennel. They feed chiefly on the large-sized geese sent you, as I have reason to believe from the great number of wings, feet, and feathers I found. These wolves I found to be very short-winded. They do not run even short distances with great speed; and my sailors would often outrun them, when they would all at once turn short round, and give up, blowing heavily with the tongue hanging far out of the mouth, and then make the same noise as above stated. But they would never make at us or show fight, but stand still and show their teeth.

"The large sized-goose is called by the inhabitants of the Island whom we found six weeks afterwards, the *upland goose*; the white one is the male; these birds are there in great numbers, but are seldom seen in large flocks; I never saw more than from twelve to twenty, but even in these flocks they will pair off and go two by two at short distances from each other. They are oftener found in pairs entirely separated from other geese. I found them away from salt water, and near fresh water ponds. They live principally on a moss that grows there. In summer they lose all their feathers, and then as a matter of course cannot fly; they therefore keep constantly afloat in these ponds until their feathers grow out; I watched these birds very closely during my stay. I found their habits very much like other tame geese. Their meat is excellent eating, and not so dark as our wild goose. In Patagonia and along the S. E. coast of South America, they are also found; but there they are shy, and difficult to approach within gunshot. Strange to say I have never met them on the west coast of South America in the same latitude.

"The next goose in size is the *Kelp goose*. The black breasted one is the female; the pure white, the male. These birds I never saw but in pairs, and never away from the salt water. Their meat is hardly eatable. They are very tame, and live principally among rocks and kelp. The young all look like the female, but the young males afterwards change their feathers and become white.

"Of the *small-sized goose*, or the third kind, I shall make but few remarks, as their habits are precisely like those of the upland goose. The inhabitants call them the *Poran goose*. The male and female are alike. They are not near so plenty as the upland goose. They, as well as the kelp goose, are found around Cape Horn, and on the Island of Terra del Fuego.

"Another bird sent you, of a white color, is, both while flying and walking on the rocks, so like the common domestic pigeon, that it is difficult to tell them apart. Although not web-footed, they fly at times great distances from the shore; I never saw more than six or eight together, and generally single. They feed on worms and insects which they pick from the cracks in the rocks, after the tide has fallen. They are called *Rock pigeons*.

"Another bird, of which I saw plenty, a kind of *Oyster-catcher*, is black, with a white breast, a long compressed bill, and long red legs. These birds generally go along the beach in pairs; and give warning of danger by a long shrill whistle.

"Another specimen is a bird precisely like the last in habits, but wholly black. I did not find many of them on the Falkland Islands.

"I found a great many rats and mice on these Islands. Whether they are different from our own or not I am unable to say; their general habits are the same. The mice, however, I think are smaller than ours; and the legs of the rats are of a red-flesh color, and almost hairless above the knee joint."

[NOTE.—The wolf, whose habits are well sketched in the above letter, is *Canis antarcticus*, Shaw; the upland goose, *Bernicla antarctica*, Mellon; the kelp goose, *Bernicla magellanica*, Mellon; the small-sized goose, *Bernicla inornata*, King; rock pigeon, *Chionis alba*, Forster; the oyster-catcher with white breast, *Hæmatopus palliatus*, Temm.; the black oyster catcher, *Hæmatopus ater*, Vieill.]

Dr. Genth presented a paper for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Analysis of the Meteoric Iron, from Tucson, Province of Sonora, Mexico." Referred to Dr. Le Conte, Dr. Bridges, and Dr. Wethe-rill.

Dr. Le Conte desired to call the attention of the members of the Academy to some very grievous misrepresentations contained in the 'Catalogue des Larves des Coléoptères', by MM. Chapuis and Candèze, published in the eighth volume of the Memoirs of the Société Royale des Sciences de Liège. The portion he complained of was the article on the larva of *Eurypalpus*, (pp. 155-157), which purported to be, and

was in reality, a literal translation of the account printed by him in the work on Lake Superior by Professor Agassiz, with the single exception, that in every place where Dr. Le Conte had taken occasion to mention and criticise the erroneous views of Dr. De Kay regarding this curious larva, the Belgian naturalists had substituted the name of Dr. Harris for that of Dr. De Kay. This error was the more unaccountable, since in Dr. Le Conte's original description, he had mentioned the name of Dr. Harris but once, and then for the purpose of publicly expressing his acknowledgements for some hints kindly given towards the true nature of the larva in question, as well as for other valuable information, which the well known accuracy of observation of Dr. Harris had enabled him to give on various occasions, and which his liberal disposition prompts him always to offer for the use of his scientific colleagues. Dr. Le Conte concluded by expressing ardent wishes that foreign naturalists, who seem but lately to have become familiar with works of science published in America, would do our authors the justice, when they quote, to quote correctly.

Mr. Cassin called attention to the specimens of *Canis Antarticus*, and of the several species of Geese and other Birds, from the Falkland Islands, alluded to in the letter of Capt. Bernsée, read this evening.

On leave granted, Dr. Wistar offered a Resolution, which was unanimously adopted, inviting the members of the American Medical Association to visit the Museum of the Academy, during the session of that body in this city, in May next.

April 17th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from the American Philosophical Society, dated April 13th, 1855, acknowledging the receipt of the last No. of the Proceedings.

A paper was presented from Mr. Charles Girard, for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Observations on the Viviparous Fishes inhabiting the Pacific Coast of North America, with an enumeration of the species observed." Referred to Mr. Cassin, Dr. Drysdale, and Dr. J. A. Meigs.

Mr. Cassin presented a paper for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Descriptions of new species of Birds from Western Africa, in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with a description of one new species from Zanzibar." Referred to Col. McCall, Dr. Wilson, and Dr. Woodhouse.